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Extension Service Circular 75

April, 1928

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

*England, France, Sweden, Belgium,
Italy, Switzerland, and Germany*

J. M. Stedman

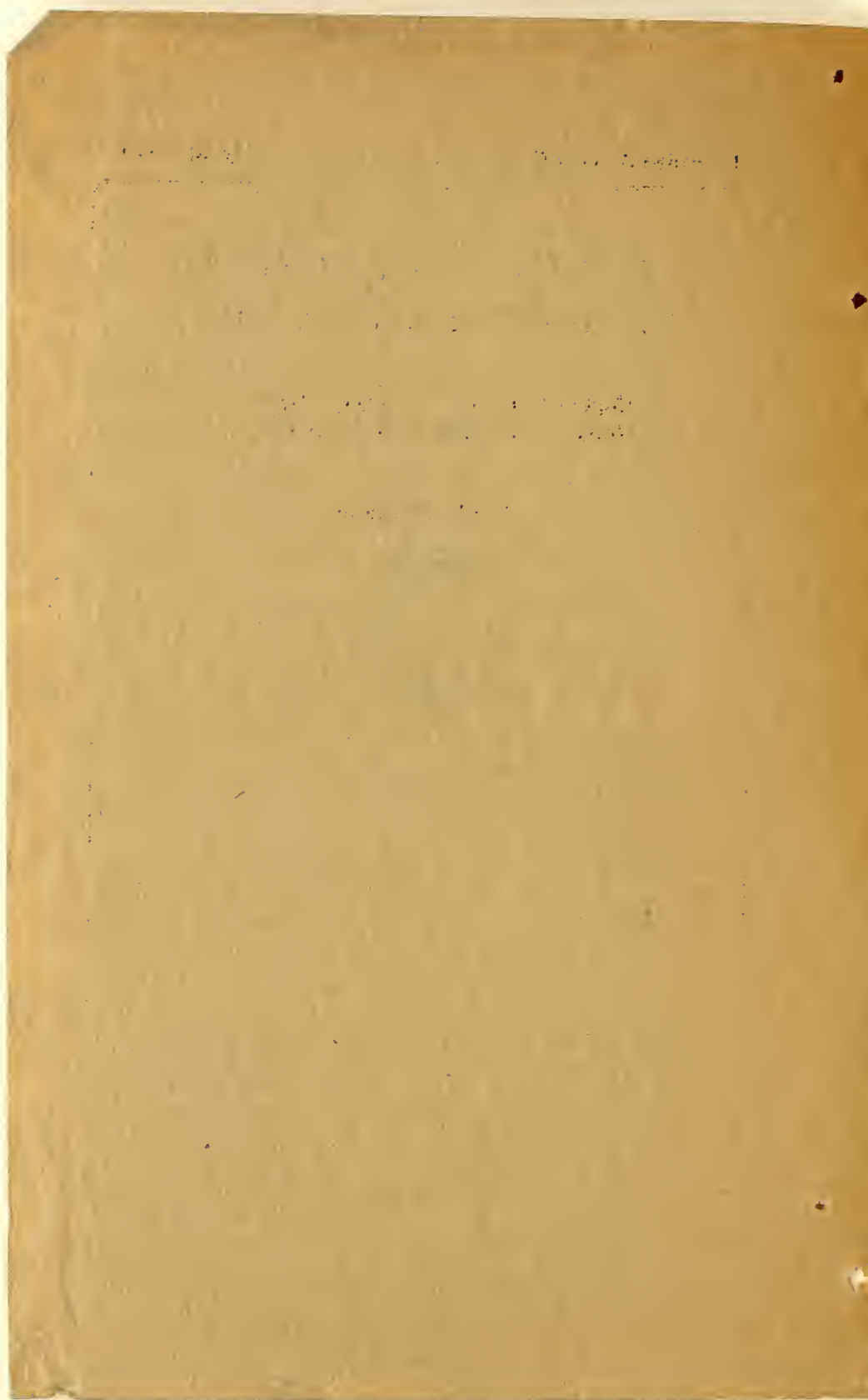


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service—C.W. WARBURTON *Director*

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Washington, D.C.



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FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

MAY 29 1928

EXPERIMENT STATION FILE

England, France, Sweden, Belgium, Italy,
Switzerland, and GermanyAbstracts from Recent Reports and Publications Received by
J. M. Stedman, Associate Agriculturist, Extension Studies,
Office of Cooperative Extension Work

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DISTRIBUTION. - One copy of this circular has been sent to each extension director, State and assistant State county agent leader, State and assistant State home demonstration leader, State and assistant State club leader, and to each agricultural college and experiment station library.

E n g l a n d

Growth of boys' and girls' clubs. - The Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture for February, 1928, states a recent census, shows that on November 1, 1927, there were 85 young farmers' clubs in actual operation in England (the movement has not yet reached Wales) with 1,697 active and 536 honorary or associate members, the latter usually the parents of the boys and girls. A comparison of these figures with those of about three years ago when the Ministry of Agriculture took over the supervision of club work - 13 clubs with a membership of 260 - shows a considerable increase in number. The 85 clubs were distributed as follows: 51 poultry clubs confining their activities to egg production and the raising of table birds; 12 calf or baby-beef clubs; 2 rabbit and 2 bee clubs; 1 horticulture club, and 37 clubs with "mixed" projects, that is, clubs dealing with poultry and rabbits, calves and pigs, rabbits and calves, and so forth, or with all of these. There were 1,055 boys in club work - 739 under 14 years of age, 213 ranging from 14 to 16 years, and 103, from 16 to 20 years. The girls numbered 642 - 458 in the first group, 153 in the second, and 51 in the third.

The Sussex baby-beef club has especially distinguished itself. Though the members are widely scattered, in some cases being obliged to travel 15 or 20 miles to attend meetings, all have shown enthusiasm and interest in their work and a high standard has been maintained. The parents have become interested and watch very closely the results of the children's work. The calf clubs compete every year in dairy-cattle judging for the silver challenge cup offered by the Farmer and Stock-breeder and Agricultural Gazette and the silver and bronze medals given by the British Dairy Farmers' Association. In 1925 and 1926 the Sussex club furnished the members of the county champion team. The results of the 1927 competition, in which six clubs were ready to take part in October, but which had to be postponed until January, 1928, on account of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, are not yet available. In 1926 two of the three members of the English team competing at the dairy show at Eastbourne, Sussex, against the American team in the international champion contest in dairy-cattle judging were members of the Sussex baby-beef club. This team thus won the gold challenge cup for the first time for England in 1926. The team winning the cup in 1927, the second time it was carried off by the English clubs, were all Sussex County baby-beef club members, two boys and a girl.

In Cumberland and Northumberland Counties, the clubs, four in one county and five in the other, have considerable scope for development, in view of the strong support given them by the agricultural education authorities. In Cumberland County, where the clubs and Northumberland are all poultry clubs, at a recent meeting of the agricultural subcommittee of the county education authority, minutes of one of the club meetings were read and highly commended for their interest and clearness.

A conference is held each year by the club leaders to discuss problems in connection with the work and the best means of promoting the development of the club movement.

Poultry courses for farm boys and girls. - Itinerant poultry courses which were begun about 25 years ago and conducted spasmodically for some time, have recently been started afresh in Yorkshire, and some of the other counties are following suit. They afford excellent opportunity for many boys and girls, employed on poultry farms, with neither time nor money to attend a regular school, to obtain instruction in poultry management. The courses are held during the day over a period of three weeks, with six classes a week. The classes are held on some farm, in a barn or other large building, and the farmer allows the instructor to use the poultry equipment he needs. The three hours devoted to instruction each day consist of a lecture of an hour and two hours of practical work. The courses are usually held in the spring so as to include instruction in hatching and raising poultry. The instruction is adapted to the needs of the locality. Thus, at a point in Yorkshire where a specialty is made of egg production by poultry keepers, the program of the course included:

Breeds and their characteristics.
Selection of laying and breeding stock.
Hatching and raising - natural and artificial.
Foods and methods of feeding.
Housing.
Ducks - breeds and management.
Geese - breeds and management.
Turkeys - breeds and management.
Diseases - prevention and care.

F r a n c e

Instruction for farmers through the radio. - A law was passed on July 27, 1927, providing a maximum grant of 500,000 francs a year to be used by the Ministry of Agriculture for disseminating agricultural instruction and information by means of the radio. This fund is to be used for the installation and operation of broadcasting stations and the purchase of receiving sets, the latter to be placed in schools of agriculture, rural public schools, municipal assembly halls, and halls belonging to farmers' associations. In explaining the advantages of this project to the Chamber of Deputies, the Minister of Agriculture stated that the programs broadcast to the farmers should include warnings of outbreak and progress of various animal diseases, instruction regarding the care of animals and plants, administrative or legislative regulations of interest to rural people, lectures and talks of a more general nature, and entertainment through musical numbers. Since the early fall lectures on agricultural subjects have been broadcast regularly from the Eiffel Tower.

Rural weeks for girls. - The term "rural week" is applied to a week of instruction and recreation provided for young girls living in the country by a society, such as the Patriotic League of French Women or the Society for the Protection of the Young Girl, and in some cases by private individuals. The rural week is installed in some quiet and attractive place in the country, often in a home-management school building, or even at some country estate which has been placed at the service of the organizers. Both farm girls and other young girls of the better classes in the country attend the rural week, but as far as possible the environment is the same for all, and the formation of cliques is guarded against.

Girls who come from a distance live in the building where the rural week is held, while many of those in the immediate neighborhood return home each day. The object of the rural week is to implant in young girls of all social condition a love for the country, to give them religious, family, home management, and agricultural training, awakening a desire to learn to work intelligently rather than by routine, and to continue the training begun in this way. Rural days with programs similar to that of the rural week, and adapted to the needs of each region, suitable reading, and correspondence courses are some of the means by which this training may be continued.

A typical day's program at a rural week is as follows:

Day's program	Mass in the early morning, with sometimes a short talk on some biblical subject as the good shepherd, the vine, the sower, the barren fig tree, which gives opportunity for practical application. Breakfast follows, then care of the rooms. About 9 o'clock the first lecture is given, followed by discussions and exchange of opinions between teachers and pupils. A short recess gives the pupils opportunity to go to the library and look over books and rural magazines, or to ask the lecturer for further explanations. When the bell rings all assemble again in the lecture hall and listen to another talk. At 12 o'clock lunch is served and afterwards comes a period of recreation. Walks are taken and sometimes visits are made to well-kept farms, or well-managed, comfortable homes. At 2 o'clock work is resumed, and from then until 4 o'clock the time is usually taken up with practical home-management demonstrations. After a little afternoon lunch another practical talk is given, and the day's work is finished at half past 5. In the evening after dinner, everybody comes together again and entertainment is furnished in the way of country songs, projections, family games, and so forth.
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Subjects taught	The instruction given during a rural week includes care of dairy cows, making cream cheese, hatching and raising fish, child hygiene and training, care of clothes, removing stains from garments, cutting out patterns, cooking, canning, beautifying the home, and other subjects of interest to rural girls.
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Expense	Very little expense is connected with holding a rural week. The lectures are generally free and lecturers are easily obtained in the country. The girls willingly pay 40 to 50 francs for the week's board, and provision has to be made for the director's traveling expenses, if he comes from a distance.
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Result	Rural weeks are popular in regions where they have been held. Girls attending them often experience a change in their point of view. In a number of cases girls who were thinking seriously of leaving the village and going to town to live, have decided to remain in the country and profit by the instruction they have received.
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S w e d e n

Instruction for club girls. - Lectures followed by discussions, courses, demonstrations, competitions, and study trips are the means used to train girls who are members of the young farmers' league in the various lines of farm and home work that devolve upon them.

Lectures may be either practical or somewhat theoretical in character and are often illustrated with lantern slides to make them more interesting. The girls are encouraged to carry on discussions after the lectures. When difficulty is experienced in inducing them to express themselves in public, which is often the case at first, personal questions are put to the various members which they are compelled to answer. Their timidity and bashfulness are in this way gradually overcome, and they learn to exchange opinions with each other, and to discuss what they have heard in the lecture.

The practical course has been found one of the most satisfactory forms of imparting instruction to the club girls. The subjects taught are cooking, baking, slaughtering, food preservation, weaving, dyeing, sewing, care of the sick, and care of the child.

Courses in cooking and baking are either demonstration courses where the leaders do all the work, carefully explaining each step to the pupils, or courses where the work is done by the pupils under the leaders' direction. While there are some advantages in demonstration instruction, courses where the pupils are required to do the work themselves have been found to give the best results. In courses of this kind the pupils work in twos, being grouped according to their adaptability to work together. They work under practically the same conditions as at home, become interested in each other's work, and exchange opinions. At the beginning of the day the work is planned, a list of recipes to be used is gone over, and the pupils supplied with detailed directions for each one. They learn to prepare entire courses including entrees and desserts of simple, nourishing food, and a few more elaborate dishes for Sundays and holidays. The idea is to use home-grown products as much as possible in the way of root crops, green vegetables, milk, and fruit, so as to save expense for the pupils. The composition of articles of food is explained and instruction is given regarding an inexpensive, nourishing, and wholesome diet for children as well as older persons. In these courses the pupils pay for ingredients that are purchased and bear the expense of fuel, rent, and the like. Slaughtering courses occupy quite an important place in the list of courses for club girls. The object of the course is not, as the name might seem to imply, to instruct the pupils in the method of killing animals, but to show them how to clean and cut up animals that have been slaughtered, how to make boiled and smoked sausage, and sandwich meat of various kinds. Instruction is also given in salting and smoking; also in canning in hermetically sealed glass containers. At the close of the course a public exhibition of the products is held, and a lecture

given on the methods used, after which they are sold for the price of production. In this way the pupils have very little expense in connection with the course. In the food-preservation courses the pupils furnish the materials needed and do all the work themselves. In these courses instruction is given not only in putting up articles of food in hermetically sealed glass containers, but also in making fruit juices, jams, marmalades, and in salting and drying. A public exhibition of the pupils' work is held at the close of the course and a lecture given on the various methods of food preservation.

Food-preservation courses

In the weaving courses which last four or five weeks each, the pupils learn how to do various kinds of weaving, and an exhibition of their work is held at the close of the course as in the slaughtering and food-preservation courses. The course in vegetable dyeing lasts a week. The pupils procure the vegetables and bark from which the dyes are made.

Courses in weaving and vegetable dyeing

The sewing courses are of various lengths and cover many kinds of needlework. Much importance is laid upon learning to mend household linen and to alter garments of various kinds so that the housewife may not have to employ some one to do this work for her. Combined courses in first aid, care of children, and care of the sick last for three or four weeks and are made interesting by the use of lantern slides.

Sewing courses, first-aid courses, etc.

To encourage self-activity and friendly rivalry among the members, competitions of various kinds are organized. Besides those in growing flax, flowers, kitchen vegetables, and root crops, in which both boys and girls take part, special competitions are organized for girls in home industry and food preservation lines. Competitions are regarded of great importance as through them the mind and the eye are trained and criticism of their work incites the competitors to do better.

Competitions

Study trips are arranged for the girls either by the club or by an agricultural society for visiting a model farm, an historical place, some pretty spot or some other club. These trips lasting either a few days or a few weeks are very profitable and broadening to the club members and often prove a positive revelation to them, as through them perhaps the only opportunity is afforded the girls to get away from the monotony of everyday life, and the knowledge acquired in this way is often put to practical use in their own homes.

Study trips

Home-economics clubs, agricultural societies, and interested individuals give assistance in the work of imparting instruction to the girls of the young farmers' league. The officials of the agricultural societies; that is, the farm and dairy advisers, district gardeners, and itinerant stewards, give lectures on various subjects in their lines of work. The home advisers of the agricultural societies hold free courses in cooking, baking, slaughtering, and food preservation, and give lectures and demonstrations on woman's work on the small farm. Home-industry clubs aid in organizing weaving, sewing, and dyeing courses, and branches of the Red Cross assist in courses in care of the sick.

Assistance by clubs and societies

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Belgium

Extension work of the Boerenbond Belge. - The sphere of action of the Boerenbond, or Belgian League of Peasants, perhaps the most important organization of farmers in Belgium, has been greatly extended since its foundation nearly 40 years ago, and now includes in its program the religious, social, and educational advancement of every member of the farm family. The association, composed of Catholic members, and with officials of the Catholic church on its administrative staff, was founded as an organization of farm men, and only the heads of households were enrolled on its lists, though the other members of the family shared in the advantages derived from such membership. With the formation of the wives and daughters of members into the farm women's league, a woman's branch was founded in 1911. A third branch, known as young people's sections, was formed in 1925, for the purpose of including work with farm boys, sons of members, in the league's sphere of activities, and organizing them into separate groups.

The Boerenbond is administrated by a governing committee, a higher council, and a secretariat-general. The governing committee is composed of a president, a vice-president, a secretary-general, and three members. The committee meets twice a week to discuss the current business of the league, and directors of the various sections of the league are invited to attend these meetings when it is considered advantageous. The higher council, composed of the members of the governing committee and delegates from the local guilds, is the supreme authority. It handles the important affairs of the Boerenbond, examines its accounts, keeps in touch with the most important questions relating to agriculture and the farmers, and keeps posted on the general progress of the league. The secretariat-general, in charge of a Catholic canon, is concerned with the general organization of the league, the special interests of the members of a religious, moral, social, professional, or intellectual nature, collates useful information for its own documentation or that of the governing committee, and promotes the technical instruction and general training of its members.

The parochial agricultural guild is the local organization of farmers and the center of all the league's work in the parish. Only the head of the family is enrolled on the list of the parochial guilds. In 1892 there were 2,000 members and at the close of 1926, the 1,175 guilds had more than 112,000 farmers on their lists. The league employs a well-organized staff of workers called inspectors (inspecteurs) who are in charge of the extension work of the guilds. They form the connecting link between the secretariat-general and the local guilds and come into direct contact with the farmers. Among the numerous duties of the inspectors are the organization of guilds and their sections; providing instruction for the members of the league through lectures, lessons, and discussions; organizing and holding agricultural courses for young people; holding expositions and competitions. They help to establish regional schools of agriculture and hold regional meetings for the discussion of such subjects as taxes and cooperative selling; organize and supervise cooperative purchase of fertilizer

food for livestock, and other commodities, as well as the cooperative selling of farm products; direct the work of the savings and credit banks, cooperative dairies, sugar-beet sections and syndicates, livestock insurance, and other sections of the league. In the discharge of their duties a great deal of the inspectors' time is necessarily taken up in travel. During 1926, a total of 7,064 days was spent in trips of every nature. Lectures given during the year amounted to 1,341 and covered such subjects as organization of farm youth, savings and credit banks, taxes, fertilizers, feeding livestock, the kitchen garden, raising potatoes, cooperative sale of eggs, improvement of livestock, and poultry keeping. The league also maintains a technical service, which gives advice and assistance to its members in the construction of farm and

Technical
service

other buildings, in rural hydraulics which consists of reclaiming areas of swamp land through drainage systems, and installs electric light and motor power on the farm and in the community. Another service of the league, the Belgian Society for Clearing Land, charged with clearing and improving uncultivated and waste land, employs a large force of workers to actually perform this work for members according to the directions of the society's experts who have previously made a first-hand study of the land to be improved.

The wives and daughters of the league are grouped into clubs in each parish, which are federated into the league of farm women, its principal object being to train its members to perform properly their many duties as mothers of families, home managers, and farmers' wives. Two distinct lists are kept: One known as

Farm women's
clubs

list A, contains only the names of the mistresses of the home, and on the other list B, are enrolled the names of other female members of the family. At the close of 1926, the farm women's league had a membership of 72,803, of which 55,371 were on list A, and 17,432 on list B. The clubs had 3,350 meetings during the year 1926 with a total attendance of about 242,560, at which lectures were given on diet for the sick, children's diseases, growing vegetables and flowers, and feeding the dairy cow in winter. Four-day courses on such subjects as milk and butter, cheese making, raising chickens, feeding cattle, cooking, washing and ironing, sewing, and care of children were organized by 210 clubs with an attendance of 4,054 persons. A small exhibition was usually held at the close of these courses. Agents called inspectresses (inspectrices) are employed by the farm women's league to direct the work of the clubs and form a connecting link between the clubs and the central institution, keeping in close touch with the staff of inspectors. The work of the inspectresses is similar in many respects to that of home demonstration agents,

Work of the
inspectresses
or
home agents

and consists largely in visiting the various clubs, holding short courses and lectures, and conducting study circles. During 1926 they spent 1,449 days in travel, gave 314 lectures, held 124 short courses, conducted 180 study circles for members of committees, and made 188 visits to clubs. The work of the farm women's clubs necessitates a voluminous correspondence. During 1926, 13,480 letters and cards were sent out, and 12,014 letters were received. Special courses in home-management instruction are provided by the league for the girls enrolled on list B. In 1926 temporary courses in agriculture and home economics were held in 9

Instruction for
girls

communes for girls at least 16 years of age and covered 300 hours of instruction each, 10 lessons being on religious subjects, given by the curate of the parish or his delegate. Two teachers from the normal school of Berlaer taught the other subjects. The lessons given on 2 days a week, at the rate of 6 hours of

instruction a day, covered a period of about 25 weeks or 5 months. One-third of the instruction was theoretical, and the remainder practical. "Days" were held at various points with an attendance of more than 4,000 girls, to explain the object of the movement in their behalf, and led to the organization of 62 girls' sections.

Satisfactory progress has been made by the boys' sections of the Boerenbond in the short time since their organization began. The young people attend the meetings of the adult farmers, take part in the discussions, even occasionally giving talks on technical subjects, and sometimes enliven the meetings with songs. They have shown great enthusiasm in the work and have infused new life and activity into their elders, the members of the guilds. They also hold meetings of their own. In 1926 regional meetings organized with the aid of the inspectors were held at 12 points to bring sections together, to stimulate their enthusiasm and courage, and to encourage the formation of new sections. As in 1925, excursions were made during the summer of 1926, at which time fetes and expositions were arranged. The young boys are very much interested in the "study days" held each year by the Boerenbond. The league has organized these so-called study days each year since the war. They are in reality conferences, held especially for the leaders of the local guilds, though attended by a large number of other members. In these conferences, agricultural problems, of special importance to the members of the league, are discussed. In December, 1927, the eighth of these conferences was held, and the Ministry of Agriculture and several provincial administrations showed their interest by sending delegates. As in the previous year, a special day was devoted to the boys' sections. About 700 farm boys were present. On the opening day, the day set aside for the young people's sections, talks were given on "The Young Farmer in His Profession," and "The Young Farmer in the Family." The principal subject discussed by the leaders of the adult sections was "How Can the Farmer Aid in Increasing Production?" The work of the young people's section was referred to, and talks given on "The Young Farmer in the Association," and "The Young Farmer in the Parish." The boys' sections have increased rapidly during the year, and on January 1, 1927, there were more than 350 sections with about 13,000 members against 158 sections and 4,655 members in December, 1925.

Great importance is attached to the Boerenbond by the press as a means of working for the betterment of the rural people. Besides articles contributed to the large newspapers, the league issues both weekly and monthly publications for the benefit of its members. One of the most important is a weekly magazine, "The Peasant," which appears in three languages under the titles: "Le Paysan," "De Boer," and "Der Bauer," that is French, Flemish, and German editions are published. "Notre Guide" is a monthly publication for leaders of the local guilds, farm women's clubs, study sections, and young people's clubs. "Onze Ploeg," (Our Plow) contains articles of a more scientific nature than those just mentioned and is especially interesting to teachers of agriculture. A monthly paper is published by the farm women's league and sent to each family, one or more members of which belong to the league.

I t a l y

Agricultural instruction through the radio. - On July 1, 1926 the Italian Federation of Agricultural Consortia initiated at Rome and Milan a daily program of agricultural instruction and information through the radio in collaboration with the Italian Radiophone Union. Every day except Sundays and holidays a quarter of an hour is devoted to broadcasting interesting and useful information to the farmers from these two points. The program, which is the same from both stations, includes:

- Program
- (1) Talks of a technical character.
 - (2) Prices of commodities.
 - (3) Weather forecast.
 - (4) Agricultural information and notices.

It is worthy of note that through this initiative the farmers were the first to enjoy the advantage of a daily radio service in Italy. The success attending the use of the radio in other countries where it became popular long before it did in Italy, and the assurance that many farmers would in a short time be provided with receiving sets, led the Italian Federation of Agricultural Consortia to use this means of bringing agricultural instruction and information to the farmers in their homes. The inaugural program broadcast on July 1, 1926, was opened with a message to the farmers by the Minister of National Economy.

Itinerant cinema. - For the past two or three years the Opera Nazionale per Combattenti (National Organization for Combatants) has been conducting itinerant courses in agricultural instruction with the aid of motion pictures. The work, begun as an experiment in the compartment of Lazio and the province of Grosseto, proved so successful that arrangements were made to extend this instruction to other regions. The organization has special auto coaches for the tours, constructed from the Fiat machine, on the omnibus type. They are completely equipped for showing pictures in the open air, being provided with projection apparatus and portable screen, as well as their own dynamo for use in places where there are no electric light plants. The films used are obtained from the Institute of the Cinematographical Union, founded by royal decree of March 18, 1926, for the collection and distribution of agricultural films. These films are prepared from plots furnished by the best known specialists in the various branches of farming and are illustrated by experts of the National Organization for Combatants and of the itinerant chairs of agriculture. In addition to the agricultural films, the program contains pictures of educational, hygienic, and patriotic character.

S w i t z e r l a n d

Instruction for rural boys and girls. - The term "post-scolaire" (after school) is applied in Switzerland to instruction given rural boys and girls at least 14 years old, who have completed the compulsory primary school course, and is organized to reach the great mass of rural young people who are not able to attend the regular agricultural or home-management schools.

Instruction for boys includes the optional agricultural village school in distinction from the compulsory agricultural village school, the regional school, winter courses of agriculture, and short courses.

The optional agricultural village school is organized sometimes by the public powers, and sometimes by agricultural associations and syndicates, and is the name applied to practical and theoretical courses in agriculture lasting several days each. The program of boys instruction covers four years, a special subject being taken up each year, as soils and fertilizers, feeding livestock, or farm bookkeeping. Experiments are often conducted in connection with instruction in fertilizers and plant growing, and the entire farming population is interested in visiting the fields. During the winter the teacher gives a lecture to sum up the results obtained by the pupils through the experiment fields.

The object of the regional school is to reach the brightest boys of 14 to 16 years of a small region, who have been through the primary school and do not intend to enter the middle or higher schools of agriculture, but wish to remain in the village. The course may be either independent of or preparatory to that of the primary agricultural school or winter courses. The regional school is regarded as an ideal institution for imparting instruction in agriculture to boys who have finished the compulsory primary school period, as it keeps up the desire of farm boys for study between the time they leave the primary school and are ready to enter the winter courses of agriculture.

The winter courses of agriculture or primary agricultural schools have proved to be the best institution for training the sons of farmers owning small or medium-sized farms who are not able to attend the regular schools of agriculture. They last from November to April, the period when farm work is slack. The staff of teachers are persons who have received general training in the higher schools of agriculture and specialists in such subjects as horticulture and legislation. The course covers two winter semesters and the following is a typical program of this type of school:

First semester. - Arithmetic and geometry. Physics and agricultural meteorology. Geology and the soil. General chemistry. Bookkeeping. General Botany. General zoology. Raising domestic animals. Rural legislation. Farm Program of machines. Apiculture. Arboriculture. Sylviculture. Sanitary winter courses policy.

Second semester. - Arithmetic. General agricultural chemistry. Feeding livestock. Fertilizers. Farm bookkeeping. Surveying and drawing. Special botany. Plant diseases. Forage crops. Special crops and their rotation. Raising domestic animals. Rural economy. Rural legislation. Farm machines. Dairy industry. Hygiene of livestock. Improvement of the soil. Construction of rural buildings. Alpine farming.

Excellent results are obtained from two to six-day courses in kitchen gardening, arboriculture, and apiculture. They are either itinerant courses or classes organized in the buildings of the schools of agriculture.

Short
courses

Home-management instruction for young country girls who have finished the compulsory primary school period and are not able to attend the regular home-economics schools is given in temporary or itinerant courses. The subject of home-management instruction for girls was first discussed more than 60 years ago in the meetings of the Swiss Society of Public Service, but the first steps in this direction were not taken until 1881 when two cooking courses each lasting 15 days were organized at Lucerne under the auspices of the Society of Agriculture. Several cantons of eastern Switzerland later followed the example of Lucerne, and courses of this kind were held in Thurgovie, St.-Gall, Grisons, Zurich, Argovie, and Soleure. In 1894, the Federal Council, in response to repeated requests from the Swiss Society of Public Service, made a regular grant for organizing courses in domestic economy. Since that time 15-day courses have been organized yearly by cantons, communes, or groups of communes. They are held in the buildings of the schools of agriculture or conducted according to the itinerant system. The instruction given in these courses includes care of poultry, rabbits, and hogs; the kitchen garden; and child hygiene.

Instruction for
girls
Short courses

Since 1903, the canton of Ticino, or Tessin, in the southeastern part of the country, has been conducting itinerant courses in domestic economy. The first course was organized in the isolated village of Vergeletto, the idea being to establish a school with domestic economy as its main branch, which was suited to the needs of the humblest section, and could be moved from village to village. This plan has proved very successful, and the school has been in operation for almost 25 years with hardly any interruption, even during the period of the World War. Each course lasts two months, and about five courses are held during the year. The program of the school, which up to the present time has been confined to lessons in cooking, domestic economy, household accounts, horticulture, care of the sick, and the like, will shortly be extended to include training for women who wish to follow trades of various kinds.

Itinerant courses
in Tessin

Germany

Development of farm bookkeeping. -A recent publication by an official of the Council of German Agriculture states the keeping of farm accounts is receiving at present more attention in Germany than in any other country, and most of the farms on which accounts are kept are affiliated with one of the 500 bookkeeping offices now in operation. A survey made by the council showed that in 1925-26, 46,524 farms ranging in area from less than 10 to more than 100 hectares (about 25 to 250 acres) were affiliated with these offices. At first this seems a small proportion when it is considered that the census of 1907 places the total number of farms in Germany at 5,068,597. It must be taken into account, however, that 5,888,202 are farms less than 5 hectares (12.5 acres) in area, on which bookkeeping is not yet practiced, and not until after the war was the importance of keeping regular accounts fully realized. The distribution of the farms affiliated with the bookkeeping offices, according to size, is as follows:

Size of farm hectares	Total number of farms	Number of farms affiliated with bookkeeping offices	Percentage of farms affiliated with bookkeeping offices
5 to 20	930,933	10,932	1.17
20 to 100	230,408	24,377	10.55
More than 100	19,024	11,015	57.95
	1,180,395	46,324	3.92

It appears from the above that 11,015 or almost two-thirds of the large farms are affiliated with the bookkeeping offices, and, as about 8,000 farms of this class keep books independently, accounts are kept on practically all large farms. In addition to the 10½ per cent of the medium-sized and a little more than 1 per cent of the farms 5 to 20 hectares in area keeping accounts with the help of the offices, as shown by the table, there are 1,000 farms affiliated with these institutions from which detailed information could not be obtained. The total number of farms on which accounts are kept in Germany is, therefore, almost 56,000. A comparison with Switzerland which the author states holds the second place in the development of farm bookkeeping shows up favorably for Germany. During 1924-25 accounts were kept by only 1.9 per cent of the total number of persons owning farms more than 3 hectares in area, while in Germany 3.92 per cent owning farms of more than 5 hectares practiced bookkeeping in 1925-26.

With the establishment in 1872 of the first farm-bookkeeping office by the Howard Society of Farm Bookkeeping and Management, a beginning was made in the methodical keeping of farm accounts. A number of private farm accounting offices were organized soon after, and in 1895 the German Agricultural Society and some of the agricultural chambers established offices. Until the outbreak of the World War new offices were constantly being created, the chambers of agriculture being especially interested in the encouragement of farm bookkeeping. By 1914, there were 32 offices, with which 2,611 farms were affiliated,

most of them ranging from 100 to more than 400 hectares (250 to 1,000 acres) in area. The war put a check to the development of farm bookkeeping, but since its close the number of offices and of farmers keeping accounts has increased amazingly. The survey made by the Council of German Agriculture showed that there were 492 central and auxiliary offices in 1926, or 16 times as many as in 1913-14. Besides there were a few small offices, not reported by the council, which brought the number up to about 500. Those reported were distributed as follows:

Agricultural chambers.....	125
Special associations.....	6
Imperial federation.....	66
Local economic associations...	160
Cooperative associations.....	37
Bookkeeping unions.....	51
Private bookkeeping offices...	67
Total.....	492

All the bookkeeping unions collaborate with the chambers of agriculture as do most of the cooperative associations. The bookkeeping offices of the agricultural chambers have the largest number of clients.

A comparison of statistics for 1913-14 with those for 1925-26, obtained by the German Council, shows that the keeping of farm accounts has greatly increased on small and medium-sized farms. In 1913-14 bookkeeping was practiced on 419 farms ranging from less than 10 to 100 hectares in area (25 to 250 acres) and on 2,192 farms from 100 to more than 400 hectares in area (250 to 1,000 acres) against 55,309 of the first class and 11,015 of the second class in 1925-26. That is, before the war, 2 per cent of the clientele of the bookkeeping offices were small farmers, 14.1 per cent owners of medium-sized farms, and 83.9 per cent owners of large farms, whereas in 1925-26, 53.5 per cent of the farms affiliated with these offices were small enterprises, 44.5 per cent medium-sized, and only 22 per cent large enterprises. One of the main reasons for the great development of bookkeeping after the war and the increased number of farmers keeping accounts was the necessity of taking an inventory of their business to determine accurately the income tax which they were obliged to pay. This also gave the offices a new duty as they undertook to determine the amount of taxes which the farmers had to pay. The tax law, however, has not been the only reason for the increased interest in bookkeeping. A desire to organize and manage their farm business for best results on account of the depreciation of money and the agricultural crisis which was constantly becoming more acute has led many farmers to realize the importance of keeping farm accounts.

The distinctive character of bookkeeping as generally practiced at present by German farmers is the twofold division of the work. The farmer makes current reports of his own affairs and the farm business, while the office enters these reports in the large book kept for the purpose and draws up the annual balance sheet. The farmer

himself thus keeps the current accounts and is relieved of only a part of the work by the office, an important and difficult part, however. The office does not accept the farmer's reports without question, but gives them careful examination as to their completeness and exactness, and puts questions to the farmer to clear up obscure or defective information. Further supervision is exercised through a visit each year by an official when the inventory is made out. The reports submitted by the farmer are kept according to various systems, from the simple keeping of receipts and expenses, followed by a simple inventory to the double-entry form of bookkeeping and the calculation of expenses of production according to the Howard method. The majority of farm accounts even on large farms close with a simple statement of the net proceeds of every enterprise. A limited number of double-entry accounts is kept, that is, those that show the economic results of the farm enterprises besides the net proceeds.

Farm-bookkeeping offices are compelled to charge their clients for their assistance in keeping their accounts. A few of the agricultural chambers make moderate grants to the offices to spread the keeping of farm accounts and some of the local economic groups contribute funds for this purpose, but most of the bookkeeping offices are maintained by the fees received from their clients. The amount of these fees differs according to the circumstances. With average soil and crop yields, in the case of accounts with a simple annual balance sheet, including inventory and simple fiscal statements, the charges are as follows:

For a farm of	20 hectares(50 acres).....	30-80 marks(about \$7.50 to \$19.50)
" " " " 100	" (250 ").....	100-250 " (" \$24.00 to \$60.00)
" " " " 500	" (1,250 ").....	300-750 " (" \$84.00 to \$180.00)

An extra charge is made for special work, such as making out labor accounts and accounts for auxiliary technical enterprises, trips, and the like. A much higher charge is made for double-entry bookkeeping. The client is required to pay for the bookkeeping forms.

The income-tax law of 1925 and the provisory decree of the Minister of Finances contain regulations regarding farm bookkeeping. The income-tax law, which is now in force, provides that when regular farm bookkeeping is practiced to determine the net proceeds of the farm enterprises, the profit must be reckoned on the basis of the balance sheets. The provisory decree of the Minister of Finances merely furnishes an outline to farmers for keeping accounts, and they are left to draw up a simple annual balance sheet, a double balance sheet, or to keep their books according to the commercial method or that prescribed by the agricultural chambers. These two decrees apply in whole only to large farms, and the requirements of the law are limited in the case of small farms. The economic year as prescribed in the income-tax law is from July 1 to June 30, except in the case of pasture enterprises, when it is reckoned from May 1 to April 30.

The data obtained from farm accounts, besides being used as a basis for determining the income tax, are used by the bookkeeping offices in the

study of private economy, scientific farming, and national economy. In regard to private economy, the offices use these results as a basis for giving advice in the management of the various farm enterprises, which is put into practice by the farmer himself or by an economic adviser charged with this work. In the study of scientific farming the bookkeeping data are used as the basis for general reports on farming. From the point of view of national economy, bookkeeping results enable a clear idea to be obtained of the situation of the various branches of agriculture and show the expediency and effect of all economic and political-economic measures regarding agriculture. The importance of the analysis of farm accounts was felt in the years following the World War, as the agricultural situation could not be determined by observation of fluctuations in cost of products and farm rent at a time when the market was in a state of almost complete stagnation. To obtain the full value of the analysis of farm accounts as applied to national economy, studies must be made of long periods of normal conditions as well as of times of crisis. The best example of this is shown by the results of analysis of farm accounts kept in Switzerland for a period of about 25 years, including the years during and after the war, which has afforded valuable material for studying and improving the economic situation.

Bookkeeping data were not much used in this way before the war as the keeping of farm accounts had not reached proper development for this purpose and the principles and methods of bookkeeping analysis had not been elucidated and unified. Since the war the various offices have adopted the same general principles of bookkeeping and a uniform analysis of accounts. With data furnished by the offices, the agricultural situation during and after the war has been compared with that before the war. Four thousand five hundred balance sheets covering the period from 1912-13 to 1923-24 were studied to show the evolution of net proceeds from farming, the gold mark being taken as the standard.

An inquiry committee, created by the government in 1926 to investigate the state of German agriculture in regard to production and sales necessitated the use of bookkeeping results on a large scale. The survey covered the records of 3,000 farms for the years 1924-25 and 1925-26; that is, 7,000 accounts, and for purposes of comparison, the records of 500 of these farms for 1912-13 and 1913-14. One hundred and thirty-seven offices collated this material. The farms were selected from the summaries obtained from the offices, and only those were included that were conducting typical enterprises, and practicing regular bookkeeping. The farms ranged in area from 5 hectares to more than 400 (12.5 to 1,000 acres). The collection of the material began in November, 1926, and before the following April the entire amount of data was in the hands of the Council of German Agriculture. The committee expected to have the first part of the study - the description of the agricultural situation and comparison with that before the war - completed by June, 1927.



